



INSIDE INDIA

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Two Innovative Partnerships Address Health Issues

Donors Support India's Efforts to End Malnutrition

USAID/India Mission Director George Deikun recently participated in the "Unite for Nutrition" event, hosted by USAID, the UK Department for International Development (DFID), UNICEF, and the World Bank, to demonstrate the development partners' strong support for the Government of India's efforts to improve nutrition. The event builds on the actions of the USAID supported Coalition for Sustainable Nutrition Security in India (CSNSI), which recently announced a new leadership



Chief DFID/India Michael Anderson, Mission Director USAID/India George Deikun, Joint Secretary Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India Dr. Loveleen Kacker, UK Cabinet Minister of International Development Douglas Alexander and Editor-in-Chief, Complete News and Entertainment Broadcast Pvt.Ltd Rahul Dev at the Unite for Nutrition Event. Photo/USAID

agenda for reducing malnutrition in India. This high level, multi-sectoral coalition was formed last year in response to growing concern, documented in the USAID supported National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3), about the continuingly poor nutritional status of a large segment of the population in India. The British Minister for International Development, Douglas Alexander, was the guest of honor at the event.

USAID Supports New TB Partnership

The Government of India (GoI) has made remarkable progress fighting tuberculosis over the past ten years, particularly through the USAID-assisted pilot, launch, and scale-up of the GoI Revised National TB Control Program (RNTCP). TB, however, remains a leading cause of death in India and, with one-fifth of the world's TB cases, India continues to have the highest TB burden globally.

TB control efforts have become increasingly sophisticated and complex, resulting in a proliferation in the diversity and number of stakeholders. This holds true for both the

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fundamental aspects of TB control as well as activities related to emerging challenges, such as TB-HIV co-infection and drug-resistance.

The proliferation of stakeholders, from all sectors, has necessitated increased coordination at the national level. One very positive step in this direction is the launch of the National TB Partnership for Care and Prevention -- the first partnership of its kind to bring stakeholders together from all sectors in an effort to improve coordination for TB control.

The National TB Partnership for Care and Prevention unites representatives from NGOs, pharmaceutical companies, patient rights groups, and the Government of India in the common goal of bringing TB under control in India. USAID is supporting the International Union Against TB and Lung Disease (IUATLD) to establish the Partnership secretariat.

USAID Supports India's First Energy Efficiency Alliance

With support from USAID/India's ECO-III project, ten Indian private sector firms recently formed the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE), a group modeled on the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE). Bringing stakeholders in the energy efficiency industry in India together for the first time, the AEEE will play a constructive role in policy, advocacy, research, and analysis to promote energy efficiency among industries and households. Members of the group contributed initial funding of approximately \$64,000 to fund a full time professional with staff support and hope to save 2,000 Mw of electricity through energy efficiency practices by 2012. In addition to saving electricity through energy efficiency, the AEEE also hopes to get support from the information technology sector to save 10 per cent of their current power consumption in three years.

"The AEEE is an industry-led initiative to enrich policy-making in India by creating a forum where energy-efficient companies can highlight the issues and barriers in energy efficiency and carbon mitigation projects," said Koshy Cherail, secretary to the board and the president of the executive council of the AEEE. Commenting on the Alliance, Senior USAID energy and environment adviser S Padmanabhan, said: "There is a necessity in India to bring the stakeholders in the energy efficiency industry together as there are currently no efficiency associations in India. This alliance is a step in this direction."

Expanding the Flood Warning System in Himachal Pradesh

Under USAID's Disaster Management Support Project, the U.S. Geological Survey recently completed work with the Indian Central Water Commission (CWC) on installation of a flood warning system for the Sutlej River in Himachal Pradesh, a river prone to flash flooding caused by heavy rains in the Himalayas. This system will allow around-the-clock automatic warnings via text messaging, e-mail, and voice mail to disaster responders, state and local government officials, and a major hydro electric power plant. The CWC intends to replicate the system in other river basins.